

The Issue of an Offender's Personality in Criminology

Abstract

The aim of this master's thesis was to describe the issue of the offender's personality in criminology. The first part of the thesis deals with the definition of basic terms, criminological theories and the offender's personality from the perspective of general knowledge, and then from the perspective of forensic psychology. The second part deals with the issue of economic crimes, mainly defines the concept of economic crime, describes the Czech legal regulation of economic crimes, deals with the causes, prevention and specific characteristics of the economic crime offenders. In the third part of the thesis, I try to apply my acquired knowledge to a specific case of the economic crime offender.

Since the offender's personality has a significant role to play in clarifying the causes of crime, many criminological theories have emerged over the course of history to clarify what causes criminal behavior. These theories focus on biological, psychological, sociological factors, etc. Each individual has a personality which is unique. Some elements of our personality can't be affected, e.g. temperament, other are created and changed during the course of our lives, e.g. elements that determine our character. The motivation behind every offense also plays a crucial role in researching the offender's personality.

For the time being, economic crime has no explicit definition, but it can be simplified as an offense committed by the offenders in an attempt to obtain financial benefits or other benefits at the expense of the state or other entities. In particular, economic crime is defined in Title 6 of the special section of the Czech Criminal Code. Economic crime offenders are often referred to as white-collar offenders. Above all, they are characterized by high status, education, the ability to easily establish contacts and promote their will. Economic crime has the largest share on the damage caused by criminal acts, so it is necessary to try to prevent it as much as possible.

The knowledge of the offender's personality, his motivation and other causes that led to the commission of the crime are particularly important in terms of prevention, decision making on guilt and punishment.

Key words:

offender's personality, criminology, economic crime